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## A Farm-To-Table Dinner Seeds The Sylvia Center



*Lisa Green reports from Kinderhook.* It's pure brilliance for **The Sylvia Center** to hold its annual farm-to-table benefit dinner right at **Katchkie Farm**. On Saturday, July 19, approximately 330 supporters got a taste of the center's mission: to inspire children to eat well through hands-on learning experiences on the farm. The party was hosted by Liz Neumark's **Great Performances** catering company, which owns Katchkie Farm and The Sylvia Center. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres prepared at the Tartinery Station and strolled about the fields planted with fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. At long tables under a tent,

they feasted on items made from Hudson Valley products. A live auction offered jam and pickle sessions for six with master chefs, and the silent auction featured Dutch-inspired wheelbarrow benches, each festooned with its own decorative details. Funds will help bring students to Katchkie Farm to participate in The Sylvia Center's programs both in Columbia County and New York City. Many of the kids have never seen food growing, and at their day at the farm, they can hold a chicken, take a tasting tour, harvest produce and work with the chefs — activities many of the adults at the tables agreed they'd love to do, too. Shown above, **Anna Hammond**, executive director of The Sylvia Center, Actor **Bill Irwin**, **Linda Abbey** of Great Performances, and **Bob Mihalik** and **Les Newman** of **Botanica Floral and Event Design**.



**Tanu Kumar**, **Lindsay Clinton**, *Wall Street Journal* columnist **Ralph Gardner**, **Jacob Israelow**, founder of **Dirt Capital Partners**, and **Michael Glynn**, a real estate developer from Brooklyn; **Nell Wachsberger** and **Mike Coleman**.





**Liz Neumark**, the founding force of the farm and center, which began with **Great Performances**, the evening's catering company, and her husband, **Chaim Wachsberger**.



**Alaina Sparks** of Westchester County, who volunteers with Katchkie Farm, and **Lisa Laudico** and **Anthony Laudico** of Westport; WABC-TV News Reporter **Dave Evans** and **Wade Laing**.





**Tom Whitridge** of Ink, Inc., **Timothy Van Dam**, **Tim Husband**, **Ron Wagner** and **Nathan Kernan**.



**“Farmer Bob” Walker**, who has transformed the Katchkie land into a year-round organic farm, and **Kristy King**; **Susan Ball** and **John Brigham**.





**Alan Fishman**, chair of **BAM**'s Board of Trustees, Gary Stefanick, a chiropractor, **Rob Arango**, director of client development at **The Plaza**, and **Judith R. Fishman**, who is on the board of the **Mark Morris Dance Group**.



**Martha Roth**, a midwife from Nyack, and her son, **Santos Irwin**; Perfect Ten students and Hudson residents **Damaris Shakespeare**, **Markiah Gordon** and **Destiny Collins**, with **Laura Miller**, director of **The Perfect Ten After School, Inc.**





Cookbook author and culinary educator **Alexandra Leaf**, who runs chocolate tours in NYC, and **Debbie Gardner**, a board member of The Sylvia Center and dinner co-chair.



**Claude Levy-Carrick** watches his sister **Hannah Levy-Carrick** power up the blender by pedaling the bicycle as **Nina Simmons**, chef instructor at The Sylvia Center, encourages her to go for speed; Claude and Hannah enjoy the smoothie fruits of their labor.





Erminia Rivera and Congresswoman **Nydia Velazquez** of New York's 7th Congressional District sit on one of the wheelbarrow benches up for auction; **Ami Howard** and **Lindsay Kaplan**.



The sylvan setting under the tent.

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